

In the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 34, line 29, as follows:

In this step, there is comparing and matching values of the elements, PC-R_j (ppcd_j), for j = 1 to 5, being PC-R₁ (ppcd₁), PC-R₂ (ppcd₂), PC-R₃ (ppcd₃), PC-R₄ (ppcd₄), and PC-R₅ (ppcd₅), in the complete set of intra-authentication mark physicochemical properties and characteristics data, PPCD[am₁ : PC-R_j (ppcd_j)], as referenced by **40** in the upper part of FIG. 3, relating to and representative of the imaged part of authentication mark am₁ of authentic article **12**, to values of the corresponding reference (^R) elements, PC-R_j (ppcd_j)^R, for j = 1 to 5, being PC-R₁ (ppcd₁)^R, PC-R₂ (ppcd₂)^R, PC-R₃ (ppcd₃)^R, PC-R₄ (ppcd₄)^R, PC-R₅ (ppcd₅)^R, and—in the complete reference set of intra-authentication mark physicochemical properties and characteristics data, PPCD^R [am₁ : PC-R_j (ppcd_j)^R], of the corresponding imaged part of a reference authentication mark am₁^R, of authentic article **10**.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 35, line 8, as follows:

For authentication of an authentic article, such as authentic article **4210**, according to an established 'authentication' criterion or specification, for example, based on having a pre-determined minimum number of 'matched' values of the data elements during and/or following the comparison of the two sets of intra-authentication mark physicochemical properties and characteristics data, **Step (e)** generates a highly accurate and unambiguous result of authentication of authentic article **10**.